

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

May 15, 2007

Amendment to Item 18

Currently, there are over 4,000 children in foster care who receive \$13 million in child care subsidies from the State each year. This funding enables birth parents and relative caregivers the ability to place the children in their care in child care settings while they attend training, work, school or court ordered activities such as parenting classes.

Any child that has been removed from their families or deemed "high risk" and spends part of the day in child care should be guided to high quality child care settings that foster the trust, security and continuity they need during that traumatic time in their lives. Birth parents and relative caregivers need assurance that the child is in the hands of a capable child care provider who understands their special needs.

The Steps to Excellence Program (STEP), which is scheduled to begin in July 2007, will provide parents information on child care program quality and will offer child care operators a range of support services to improve the quality of their services. Over the three year pilot period, STEP will offer technical assistance to over 600 child care providers. These services will enhance the ability of child care providers to work successfully with children and families under DCFS supervision as well as other at-risk families.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA _____

BURKE _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Chief Administrative Officer (Office of Child Care) work in conjunction with the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and the Director of Children and Family Services, to explore how the STEP program could be aligned to increase the pool of child care providers who are trained to work with families involved with or at risk of involvement with the child welfare system and report back in 45 days.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the report also explores ways of further encouraging foster parents and relative caregivers to use free or subsidized child care services, such as State Preschool, Head Start and LAUP.

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